

## NPI

Get it. Share it. Use it.

Today, you need an Idaho Medicaid provider number to conduct business with the Idaho Medicaid program. On May 23, 2007, a National Provider Identifier (NPI) will become the primary provider identification number most providers will use. It is important to note that not all providers will be assigned an NPI, as some do not meet the federal definition of a healthcare provider. These providers are defined as "atypical". Providers who are not eligible for an NPI can still participate in the Idaho Medicaid program by using their current Idaho Medicaid provider number.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) mandated that the Secretary of Health and Human Services adopt a standard unique health identifier for health care providers. On January 23, 2004, the Secretary published a Final Rule that adopted the National Provider Identifier (NPI) as this identifier.

Healthcare providers completing electronic transactions, whether they are individuals or organizations, must obtain an NPI for use to identify themselves in HIPAA standard transactions accepted by Idaho Medicaid. Once assigned, the provider's NPI will not change, regardless of job or location changes.

The NPI will eliminate the need for healthcare providers to use different identification numbers to identify themselves in electronic transactions with multiple health plans.

A process to register NPI numbers with Idaho Medicaid is in development. **Providers will be notified when Idaho Medicaid is ready to accept NPI registrations.** Important NPI information will be included in future remittance advices (RAs), monthly Medicaid newsletters, and direct mail. Registering your NPI will not require re-enrollment in the Idaho Medicaid program. You must inform Idaho Medicaid of all NPI numbers you have obtained.

*If you do not apply for an NPI and register it with Idaho Medicaid by May 23, 2007, you are at risk for not receiving payment for your submitted claims. So act today and apply for your NPI!*

### **Getting an NPI is free . . . not having one can be costly**

Information provided by Idaho Medicaid is not intended to be used in place of information from the Federal Government and other organizations, but is designed to help providers understand what NPI is and how it may impact their business practices.